

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 1999

Natural soda ash production in September was 824,000 metric tons, 3% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 254,000 tons, 13% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1.28 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August was 432,000 tons,

27% lower than the August 1998 level of 588,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in August 1999 were 401,000 tons and 6,410 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through August 1999, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1998, were as follows: production slightly lower, imports 1% higher, exports 7% lower, ending stocks 12% lower, and apparent consumption 5% higher.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
August	833	332	1,300
September	849	288	1,070
October	831	322	1,320
November	858	311	1,390
December	840	273	1,430
Total (January-September)	7,620	XX	12,400
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,100
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
Total	7,580	XX	11,700

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1999 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN AUGUST 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	62,100	\$6,850	\$110
Brazil	46,900	6,240	133
Venezuela	45,700	5,020	110
Indonesia	45,000	5,400	120
Chile	25,500	3,720	146
France	23,500	2,660	113
Canada	21,700	1,770	81
Taiwan	20,000	2,520	126
Korea, Republic of	19,800	3,180	161
Thailand	18,700	2,340	125
Other	71,500	8,370	117
Total	401,000	48,100	120

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ September 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	--	22,000	--	52,500	2
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	6,460	23,500	1
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	18	17,500	6	62,400	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	700	--	27	1,330	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	--	--	46,900	133,000	6
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	20,500	16,500	21,700	166,000	7
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	26,400	--	25,500	97,400	4
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	5,000	--	12,300	31,000	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	--	--	7,480	38,800	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	5,000	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	--	--	23,500	84,000	4
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	--	--	--	299	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	73	--	2,010	7,390	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	16,500	23,000	45,000	160,000	7
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,100	5,100	(3/)
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	--	--	2,050	4,110	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	41,100	35,500	9,500	205,000	9
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	139	19,500	19,800	122,000	5
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	9,500	5,000	9,500	59,600	3
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	20,800	50,600	62,100	339,000	15
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	--	7,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	3,960	--	--	3,960	(3/)
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	--	29	--	52	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	3,620	--	2,120	12,300	1
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	--	8,500	10,000	47,500	2
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	--	59,000	3
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	4,000	--	7,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	--	18,900	--	50,700	2
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	--	11,900	--	72,400	3
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	--	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	23,000	5,500	20,000	113,000	5
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	15,300	15,200	18,700	139,000	6
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	--	--	--	5,730	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	--	12,000	1
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	--	20	--	7,230	(3/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	--	--	--	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	15,000	--	45,700	102,000	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	5,000	9,000	(3/)
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	206,000	282,000	401,000	2,250,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ September 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
August	7,350	\$938
September	8,050	1,030
October	6,260	824
November	6,870	906
December	6,550	827
Total (January-August)	55,200	7,210
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
Total	56,000	6,720

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ September 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
August	833,000	7,350	222,000	30,100	--	588,000
September	849,000	8,050	347,000	--	43,900	554,000
October	831,000	6,260	244,000	33,200	--	560,000
November	858,000	6,870	336,000	--	10,400	540,000
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Total (January-August)	6,770,000	55,200	2,430,000	73,500	--	4,320,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3910	260000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6620	301000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8810	248000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7990	276000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6600	275000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7960	206000	--	67,800	729,000
July	911,000	7750	282000	11,700	--	625,000
August	803,000	6410	401000	--	22,700	432,000
September	824,000	NA	NA	--	38,400	NA
Total (January-August)	6,750,000	56,000	2,250,000	18,900	--	4,540,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.